with him as in the case of sitting MPs, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow the travel of companion in First Class or 2 tier A/C along with Ex-MPs instead of in 3 tier, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to allow the travel of companion in First Class/A.C. Sleeper, along with the ex-Member of Parliament, instead of an attendent in Second Class, is under consideration.

Complaints Regarding Inconvenience Faced by passengers in Trains

1528. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by Government during the last one year in regard to the inconvenience faced by the passengers in trains; and

(b) the steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Stopping of Diesel Locomotives on electrical routes

1529. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to stop running of diesel locomotives on electrified routes even for shunting purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge

1530. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the steps taken during the current year for the conversion of the metre gauge into broad gauge; the details of the length of kilometers and expenditure incurred;

(b) what are the future plans for conversion and expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) what are the details of the work done for the conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad metre-gauge track passing through Rajasthan and expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) An action plan for conversion of M.G./N.G. lines to Broad Gauge has been taken up under which it is proposed to convert 6,000 Kms of such lines to Broad Gauge during the VIII Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs. 3900 crores. Expenditure to be incurred in 92-93 is Rs. 550 crores.

(c) Work has been started on conversion of Delhi—Ahmedabad Metre Gauge lines. The section from Delhi to Rewari will be completed in 92-93 and Rewari—Jaipur in 93-94. Expenditure planned to be incurred on these lines during 92-93 is Rs. 51 crores.

Electric Locomotives

1531. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of the ABB electric locomotives is likely to escalate by almost 100 per cent;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances leading to the abnormal escalation in the price of locomotives;

(c) what is the total expenditure estimated to be incurred as a consquence thereof as against the original cost; and

(d) what decision has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir. The offer of M/s. ABB which has been accepted is firm price offer, in the currency of